Preaching the faith: the hymns of Martin Luther

the third of five hymn festivals celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation

presented by ALCM Columbus: Cantor Connection

Sunday, June 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Ascension Lutheran Church
1479 Morse Road
Columbus, Ohio
ALCM Columbus: Cantor Connection was founded in 2008 as a network of Lutheran church musicians in central Ohio and is currently the only active local chapter of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. Its stated goals include:

- To provide resources, information and encouragement to central Ohio Lutheran church musicians in their efforts to proclaim the Word through music and liturgy.
- To organize gatherings in varied locations for the purpose of planning events and sharing ideas and resources.
- To produce local and regional hymn festivals and workshops, and other activities benefiting its members, in support of fine sacred music and the best liturgical worship practices.

This is Cantor Connection’s sixth annual spring hymn festival honoring the great cantors of the church and featuring members of Cantor Connection as musicians. In 2009 we celebrated the music of Paul Manz at Bethel Lutheran Church in Grove City, in 2010 that of Carl Schalk at Christ Lutheran Church in Bexley, in 2011 that of Donald Busarow at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Dublin and in 2012 we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Pickerington. In 2013, we presented our first hymn festival in our Reformation count down; it was titled: “Martin Luther’s Deutsche Messe – Then and Now.” It was held at All Saint’s Lutheran Church in Worthington. In 2014, we presented our second festival; it was titled: “Singing the faith: Martin Luther’s Catechism Chorales.

Cantor Connection also presents an annual Fall Workshop for musicians, pastors and lay leaders, and an annual Service of Lessons and Carols for Epiphany. Please visit www.alcm.org for more information on Cantor Connection and to join our e-mail list.

“Preaching the Faith: the Hymns of Martin Luther”

On October 31, 1517 Dr. Martin Luther wrote to Albert of Mainz and presented his “Ninety-Five Theses on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences.” Thus began the Protestant Reformation. October 31, 2017 will be the 500th anniversary of that event. ALCM Columbus: Cantor Connection, will be presenting five annual hymn festivals as a count-down to this anniversary.

This year’s hymn festival emphasizes the way in which Luther’s hymns serve as sermons in song. Martin Luther placed high value on music: “Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise,” he said. Thus he used it to teach the tenets of our Christian faith. Tonight we will be singing hymns by Luther and focusing on how they proclaim the gospel.

Future hymn festivals will continue to emphasize the hymns of Martin Luther as they embody Luther’s theology and the spirit of the Reformation. On June 12, 2016, the theme will be “Called to serve God and Our Neighbor: Men, Women, and Martin Luther’s idea of Vocation,” with commentary by Dr. Joy Schroeder; on June 11, 2017, the theme will be “Here I Stand.”
**Prelude**

*Wir glauben all an einen Gott*

Samuel Scheidt

Ron Kenreich, Organ

**Sonata in D Minor, Op. 65 No. 6**

Felix Mendelssohn

This is based on the chorale tune: *Vater unser im Himmelreich* (“Our Father in Heaven”)

*Geistliche Leider*, 1539

David Crean, Organ

Throughout the festival, the assembly responds with the text in boldface type.

**Litany**

*The assembly stands.*

**L:** Look, Lord: an empty vessel that needs to be filled.

**C:** My Lord, fill it.

**L:** I am weak in the faith;

**C:** strengthen me.

**L:** I am cold in love;

**C:** warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor.

**L:** I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times, I doubt and am unable to trust in you.

**C:** O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you.

**L:** I am poor; you are rich--

**C:** and you came to be merciful to the poor.

**L:** I am a sinner; you are upright. With me there is an abundance of sin;

**C:** with you is fullness of righteousness.

**L:** Therefore I will remain with you,

**C:** from whom I can receive but to whom I cannot give. Amen
Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray

NUN BITTEN WIR

Arr. Zebulon Highben

Introduction – Organ and Trumpet

Stanza 1 – All sing
Stanza 3 – Choir
Stanza 2 – Choir
Stanza 4 – All sing

Linda Kempke, Organ
Sarah Grosse, Trumpet

Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray

1. Now to the Holy Spirit let us pray
2. O sweet-est Love, your grace on us bestow;
3. Transcendent comfort in our every need,
4. Shine in our hearts, O Spirit, precious light,

for true faith, most needed on our way:
set our hearts with sacred fire a-glow,
help us neither scorn nor death to heed,
that we Jesus Christ may know a-right,

Guide us and defend us when life is ending
that with hearts united we love each other,
that we may not falter, nor courage fail us
clinging to our Savior, whose blood has bought us,

and our journey home-ward is tending.
Lord, have mercy!
ev’ry stranger, sister, and brother.
Lord, have mercy!
when the foe shall taunt and assail us.
Lord, have mercy!
who to our true home-land has brought us.
Lord, have mercy!
Prayer

L: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

LUTHER’S MORNING PRAYER  sung by the choir  Arr. Carl Schalk

I thank you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. You kept me safely through the night, and brought me to the morning light. Be with me through this day, I pray, and keep me safe from Satan’s sway that all I think or do or say please only you, my Strength and Stay. Into your hands I now commend my body and soul until life’s end. Your angel keep me safe from harm until I rest in Jesus’ arm. Amen.

The assembly sits.

Hymns through the Church Year

COMMENTARY by Gracia Grindal  The Reverend Timothy Muller
Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND

Introduction

Stanza 1 – All, in unison

Stanza 4 – All, in harmony

Interlude

Stanza 2 – Men, in unison

Stanza 5 – Women, in unison

Interlude

Stanza 3 – All, in harmony

Stanza 6 – All, in unison

Terry McCandless, Organ

Savior of the Nations, Come

1 Savior of the nations, come; virgin’s son, make here your home.

2 Not by human flesh and blood, but the mystic Breath of God,

3 Wondrous birth—oh, wondrous child—from his throne, a virgin mild!

4 From God’s heart the Savior speeds, back to God his pathway leads;

Marvel now, O heav’n and earth: God has chosen such a birth.

was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of woman, blossom fresh.

Very God, and Mary’s son, eager now his race to run!

out to vanquish death’s command, back to reign at God’s right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light.

Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin’s son, incarnate Word!

To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!
CHRISTMAS

From Heaven Came the Angels Bright
VOM HIMMEL KAM DER ENGEL SCHAR

Stanza 1 – Choir
Stanza 2 – Choir
Stanza 3 – All sing
Stanza 4 – Choir
Stanza 5 – Choir
Stanza 6 – All sing

Terry McCandless, Organ
Cheryl Fulton, Oboe
Sarah Grosse, Trumpet

From Heaven Came the Angels Bright

Martin Luther, 1543

German Folk Melody

1. From heaven came the angels bright To shepherds watching
2. To Bethlehem, King David's town, As Michael saw, comes
3. Rejoice, therefore, that through His Son Your God with you is
4. God came to share Himself with you, Your sin and death He
5. He never will abandon you. Trust him, He's faithful,
6. Then in the end you will prevail; God's friends and brothers

through the night. A new-born royal
great renown: Your Lord Christ is in-
now at one. He took on humanity
o - ver - threw. The foe his fier -
strong, and true. Though all men scorn you,
can not fail. In praise to God then

Child, they said, Lies yonder in a manger bed.
carnate there To save you all from sin and care.
flesh and bone, And you, His brothers, are God's own.
darts may send: Your shield is the Son, your Friend.
tempt, and mock, God loves you; build up that Rock.
raise your voice, Prepare forever to rejoice.

*Note: The musical notation is not translated into text.*
EPIPHANY

Why Would Foe Herod and His Horde

WAS FÜRCHTST DU, FEIND HERODES, SEHR

Stanza 1 – Choir
Stanza 2 – Choir
Stanza 3 – All sing
Stanza 4 – Choir
Stanza 5 – All sing

Terry McCandless, Organ
Cheryl Fulton, Oboe
Sarah Grosse, Trumpet

Why Would Foe Herod and His Horde

Martin Luther, 1541

Coelius Sedulus, D. ca. 540

1. Why would foe Her-old and his horde So fear the birth of
2. A star led wise men from a far To find the bright and
3. When baptized in the Jordan’s wave, God’s spotless lamb as -
4. The living Word at Cana spoke And wa-ter in-to-
5. In jubilation thanks we bring To vir-gin born Lord

Christ our Lord? Our Sav-ior wants no earth-ly throne. He reigns
morn-ing star. The three-fold no-ble gift they bring De- clares
sur-ance gave That He had come to take our place, Wash sin
wine a-woke. His gos-pel word wakes hearts of men To serve
Christ our King. The Fa-ther, Ho-ly Ghost, and He Re - ceive

in faithful hearts a lone.
this Child God, Man, and King.
our praise eternal
Organ Introduction: Fugue in Five Voices, Opus 18 – Johannes Barend Litzau (1873-1916)

Stanza 1 – All sing in unison
Stanza 2 – First line, treble voices, quietly
    Second line, male voices, quietly
    Third & Fourth lines, All, with quiet confidence
Stanza 3 – All read text silently
    Organ prelude: Opus 135a, No. 4 – Max Reger
Stanza 4 – All sing in harmony, with quiet hope and expectation
    Setting by J.S. Bach, from Cantata No. 38, BWV 38

Timothy Guenther, Organ
Out of the Depths I Cry to You

1. Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord God, hear me calling.
2. All things you send are full of grace; you crown our lives with favor.
3. In you alone, O God, we hope, and not in our own merit.
4. My soul is waiting for you, Lord, as one who longs for morning;

Incline your ear to my distress in spite of my rebelling.
All our good works are done in vain without our Lord and Savior.
We rest our fears in your good Word and trust your Holy Spirit.
no watch-er waits with greater hope than I for your return-ing.

Do not regard my sinful deeds. Send me the grace my
We praise you for the gift of faith; you save us from the
Your promise keeps us strong and sure; we trust the cross, your
I hope as Israel in the Lord, who sends redemption

spirit needs; without it I am nothing.
grip of death; our lives are in your keeping.
sig-nature, incribed upon our temples.
through the Word. Praise God for grace and mercy!
Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands

Stanza 1 – Choir
Christ Jesus lay in death’s strong bands for our offenses given;
but now at God’s right hand he stands and brings us life from heaven.
Therefore let us joyful be and sing to God right thankfully.
loud songs of hallelujah!

Stanza 2 – All sing
It was a strange and dreadful strife when life and death contended;
the victory remained with life, the reign of death was ended.
Holy Scripture plainly says that death is swallowed up by death.
its sting is lost forever.
loud songs of hallelujah!

Stanza 3 – Men; All sing “Hallelujah”
Here the true Paschal Lamb we see, whom God so freely gave us;
he died on the accursed tree—so strong his love—to save us.
Now his grace to us imparts eternal sunshine to our hearts;
and Satan cannot harm us.
loud songs of hallelujah!

Stanza 4 – Women; All sing “Hallelujah”
So let us keep the festival to which the Lord invites us;
the Word of grace has purged away the old and evil leaving.
Christ is himself the joy of all, the sun that warms and lights us.
Christ alone our souls will feed; he is our meat and drink indeed.
the night of sin is ended.
loud songs of hallelujah!

Stanza 5 – All sing
Then let us feast this Easter Day on Christ, the bread of heaven;
but now at God’s right hand he stands and brings us life from heaven.
Therefore let us joyful be and sing to God right thankfully.
loud songs of hallelujah!

Linda Kempke, Organ
Sarah Grosse, Trumpet
PENTECOST

Creator Spirit, Heavenly Dove
VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS/KOMM, GOTT SCHÖPFER

Stanzas 1, 3 and 5 – sung by the Choir in chant
Stanzas 2, 4 and 6 – sung by All
Stanza 7 – Choir

Ron Kenreich, Organ

1 Creator Spirit, heav'n-ly dove, descend
   upon us from a-bove; with graces man-i-
   fold re-store your crea-tures as they were be-fore.

2 To you, the Com-fort-er, we cry; to you,
   the gift of God most high, true fount of life, the
   fire of love, the soul's anoint-ing from a-bove.

3 In you, with graces sev-en-fold, we God's
   al-might-y hand be-hold; while you with tongues of
   fire pro-claim to all the world God's ho-ly name.

4 Your light to ev-'ry sense im-part, and shed
   your love in ev-'ry heart; your own un-fail-ing
   might sup-ply to strength-en our in-fir-mi-ty.

5 Keep far from us our cruel foe,
   and peace from your own hand bestow;
   Teach us to know the Father, Son,
   upheld by you, our strength and guide;
   and you, of both, to be but one;
   no evil can our steps betide.
   that through the ages all along
   your praise may be our endless song.

6 Praise to your eternal merit,
   Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.
OFFERING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This evening’s offering will be used to help support ALCM Columbus: Cantor Connection.

Improvisation on KOMM HEILIGER GEIST  Jan Arthur, pianist

PRAYERS

L: Let us pray.

L: Lord God, dear Father, through your Holy Spirit you have taught and enlightened the hearts of your believers. Through the same Spirit give us a right understanding, to be glad at all times in his comfort and power; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

L: Grant us grace, O Lord, that your holy name may be hallowed by us throughout the world, by the pure and sincere teaching of your Word and the steady love of our life. Graciously turn aside every false doctrine and all sinful living. Look in mercy upon your needy children, and grant us grace, through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

L: Lord, we know that we cannot produce or preserve for ourselves even one piece of daily bread. Nor can we guard ourselves against any need or misfortune. Therefore we will pray as you order, and hope to receive as you promise, for your take our needs to heart and help us before we even think of asking, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

L: Awaken us, dear Lord, that we may be prepared to receive your Son with joy when he comes, and to serve him with a pure heart. Graciously hasten the coming of that day. Bless and prepare us with wisdom and strength so that, in the meantime, we may walk wisely and uprightly, joyfully awaiting the coming of your dear Son, our Lord, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen
I thank you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. You kept me safely through the day, now keep me safe this night, I pray. Forgive my sins where I have erred in wrongful deed or thought or word. Be with me through the dark night hours lest I succumb to Satan’s powers. Into your hands, O Father, I offer all I am and have.

Your holy angel in the night keep watch over me till morning light.

O Christ, my Savior, be my song each morning, evening, all day long, who with the Father we give praise, and Holy Spirit, all our days. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER (sung by assembly)
Stanza 1 – All sing
Stanza 2 – All sing
Stanza 3 – Choir
Stanza 4 – All sing

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

David Crean, Organ
Sarah Grosse, Trumpet
Ron Kenreich, Tambourine

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
   a sword and shield victorious;
   he breaks the cruel oppressor’s rod
   and wins salvation glorious.

2 No strength of ours can match his might!
   We would be lost, rejected.
   But now a champion comes to fight,
   whom God himself elects.

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land
   all threatening to devour us,
   we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
   they can not overpow’r us.

4 God’s Word forever shall abide,
   no thanks to foes, who fear it;
   for God himself fights by our side
   with weapons of the Spirit.
The assembly sits for the postlude.

POSTLUDE

KOMM HEILIGER GEIST, HERRE GOTT, BWV 651

J. S. Bach

David Crean, Organ

Please join us after the Hymn Festival for a reception in the Haimerl Center.
Participants

Pastor Loci

The Rev. Timothy Muller, Ascension Lutheran Church – ELCA, Columbus

Festival Choir Director

Zebulon Highben, Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities, Muskingum University, New Concord

Festival Commentary

Gracia Grindal, Professor Emeritus of Rhetoric, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

Organists

Jan Arthur, Chancel Choir Director, All Saints Lutheran Church - ELCA, Worthington
David Crean, University Organist and Adjunct instructor of Music – Wittenberg University, Springfield
Timothy Guenther, Director of Music Ministries, Gethsemane Lutheran Church - ELCA, Columbus
Linda Kempke, Cantor, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd - ELCA, Brooklyn,
Past ALCM Region 1 President
Ronald Kenreich, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church – ELCA, Dublin
Terry McCandless, Minister of Music, Epiphany Lutheran Church - ELCA, Pickerington

Instrumentalists

Sarah Grosse, Trumpet, Bethel Lutheran Church - ELCA, Grove City
Cheryl Fulton, Oboe, St. Luke’s Lutheran Church - ELCA, Newark
Ron Kenreich, Tambourine, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church – ELCA, Dublin

Choir participants listed from the following Church Choirs:

All Saints Lutheran Church - ELCA, Worthington
Ascension Lutheran Church - ELCA, Columbus
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church - LCMS, Powell
Gethsemane Lutheran Church - ELCA, Columbus
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church – ELCA, Upper Arlington
North Community Lutheran Church - ELCA, Columbus
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church – ELCA, Dublin
St. John Lutheran Church – NALC, Grove City
St. John’s Lutheran Church - ELCA, Zanesville
In Appreciation

ALCM Columbus: Cantor Connection expresses abundant gratitude to:

- The long list of participants in tonight’s hymn festival who serve the Lord with vigor, enthusiasm and conviction.
- The West Franklin County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for a generous grant that supported the purchase of music for this hymn festival.
- Mark W. Pinnick, President of Cantor Connection, for producing the program book.
- Rev. Timothy Muller and Chad Loomis, Choral director and the people of Ascension Lutheran Church for their hospitality.
- Nancy Raabe, Zebulon Highben and Linda Kempke for Hymn Festival formulation.
- Thomas Gerke for organizing and coordinating the musicians and communications.
- Christopher Dent for marketing and advertising.

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Litany and Prayers by Martin Luther, adapted from Herbert F. Brokering, ed., Luther’s Prayers (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1994).
The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians is a service and professional organization dedicated to strengthening the ministry of worship and music in the Lutheran church. ALCM serves through a wide range of publications, conferences, and local, regional, and national events. Membership is drawn from all major Lutheran bodies and is open to all church musicians, pastors, congregations, and lay people who share the goals of the organization. For more information or to join, go to www.alcm.org.

ALCM Columbus: Cantor Connection board of directors, 2013-2014

President: Mark Pinnick, St. John’s Lutheran Church – ELCA, Zanesville
Vice-President: Chris Dent, Trinity Lutheran Church – ELCA, Columbus
Secretary: Jane McFadden, Christ Lutheran Church – ELCA, Bexley
Treasurer: Tom Gerke, All Saints Lutheran Church – ELCA, Worthington
At-large: David Pack, Upper Arlington Lutheran Church – NALC/LCMC, Columbus
Mark Plescia, Trinity Lutheran Church – ELCA, Columbus

Future Events of Cantor Connection:

2016 Epiphany Festival of Lessons and Carols
January 10, 2016 – Location TBD

2016 Hymn Festival - June 12, 2016 - “Called to serve God and Our Neighbor: Men, Women, and Martin Luther’s idea of Vocation,” with commentary by Dr. Joy Schroeder – Location TBD

2017 Hymn Festival - June 11, 2017 - “Here I Stand.” – Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Dublin, Ohio

This evenings Festival has been professionally recorded by Soundswaves. If you would like to purchase a CD/DVD please see the display in the narthex.